



## BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING MINUTES

15 January 2023

### I. Call to Order.

Called to order at 1004 hrs. by Dan Brizuela.

### II. Participants.

Voting members in **bold**.

Allegheny Mountain Rescue Group (AMRG)	<b>Keith Conover</b> <i>John Rogowski (virtual)</i>
Blue Ridge Mountain Rescue Group (BRMRG)	<b>Greg Stronko (virtual)</b>
Maryland Search and Rescue (MSAR)	<b>Dan Brizuela</b> <b>Michael Hansen</b> <i>Bob Olsen</i> <i>Jocelyn King</i>
Mountaineer Area Rescue Group (MARG)	<b>Carl Wertz</b> <b>Anne Russell (virtual)</b> <i>Ken Chiacchia</i> <i>Rebecca Hostetter (virtual)</i> <i>Doug Sward (virtual)</i>
Northwest Pennsylvania K9 Search and Rescue (NWPak9SAR)	<b>LuAnn Gatti</b> <i>Oliva Wojcicehowski</i>
Remote Support Corps (RSC)	<i>Talon Bevan</i>
Search and Rescue -Ohio (SAROH)	<b>Brian Maier</b>
Shenandoah Mountain Rescue Group (SMRG)	<b>Sean McElligott</b> <b>Andrew Hower (virtual)</b> <i>Steve Weiss</i> <i>Jocelyn King</i> <i>Gene Harrison</i>

### **III. Approval of Minutes**

A motion to approve the Minutes of the July 17, 2022 meeting and the minutes of the October 27, 2022 meeting was made by K. Conover and seconded by C. Werntz. The Minutes were unanimously approved.

### **IV. Officer Reports**

#### **a. Chair/Vice-Chair (Dan Brizuela/LuAnn Gatti)**

D. Brizuela (Chair) provides opening remarks. He states that ASRC Winter Retreat has been a great event, and noted appreciation to L. Gatti and M. Hansen for putting together the menu and providing the meals. Appreciation is also noted for all of this year's speakers, and the excellent presentations that they shared. The Chair also asks for the board to reflect on how to increase membership and funding, while engaging the conference.

In response, C. Werntz and K. Conover both speak of the conference needing an email list that works, and that there are bad addresses within the open working group. K. Conover would like to see an updated list of team representatives. S. Weiss notes that there needs to be a strategic communications push.

L. Gatti (Vice-Chair) has nothing to report.

#### **b. Secretary (Olivia Wojcicehowski)**

Nothing to report.

#### **c. Treasurer (Victoria Avery)**

V. Avery sent out the balance sheets, and three teams have not paid their 2022 dues. This is a presumed administrative error. She has faced challenges generating rosters, and asks that representatives submit them as soon as possible.

#### **d. Credentialing Board Chair (Steve Weiss)**

S. Weiss reports that there is a draft update to the credentialing manual that incorporates the recertification paths, along with some language changes that the credentialing board plans to approve. They are seeking consulted input prior to its finalization at a future board meeting. The PTB's are to go live February 1st. It is noted that the credentialing board is in a good place, and is providing many opportunities for candidates to be credentialed.

#### **e. Conference Training Officer (Ken Chiacchia)**

K. Chiacchia states that they are close to finalizing the standards for Wilderness First Aid. K. Conover is creating a draft of the text for the class, and it will be sent out for review.

K. Chiacchia has six candidates to put before the board for recertification as search managers. All have submitted their packets. Each candidate is approved individually by the board for recertification:

- Don Scelza (SM 1)
- Patty Lindsay (SM 3)
- Andrew Hower (SM 3)
- Rebecca Hostetter (SM 4)
- Jocelyn King (SM 4)

- Ken Chiacchia (SM 3)

**f. Information Technology Officer (Michael Hansen)**

M. Hansen reports that he is building a list of things to do, including an email list.

**g. Team Updates**

MSAR (J. King): MSAR reports that through their onboarding process, they have whittled down 30 potential members to 12 this quarter, and they look to be promising. They have also had a jump of members from Field 4 to Field 3. MSAR is going to be selling their current trailer and making their new one more manageable.

AMRG (C. Conover): AMRG reports that they are getting an influx of new members and are conducting numerous trainings. They have had a consistent stream of missions, including ASRC mutual aid callouts. AMRG will be hosting the PSARC Search Summit, April 21st-23rd.

MARG (C. Werntz): MARG reports that they have been assisting their local EMS, and a recent callout went extremely well. They are looking forward to that relationship continuing to grow. MARG also secured \$15,000 for rescue equipment.

NWPAK9SAR (L. Gatti): NWPAK9SAR reports that they have had a change of leadership, with Michelle Eaton taking on the role of Chief. The team will be working the EKC annual dog show, which provides for a team donation, along with planning for their upcoming 5k and Golf Fundraisers. Their “word” for the year is *expectations*. Additionally, they have had one new member join for this quarter.

SAROH (B. Maier): SAROH reports that they have had two callouts this quarter. They also note that their members are recertifying at higher levels. They experienced a change of leadership, with their CEO stepping down. Brian Maier is now SAROH’s acting CEO.

SMRG (S. McElligott): SMRG reports that they have been experiencing a steady stream of callouts. The team is also moving towards more in-person trainings. They have had 17 new members join this quarter.

BRMRG (D. Rutter): BRMRG reports that this quarter has been quiet. They are in their second training cycle. There have been a few callouts.

REMOTE SUPPORT CORPS (B. McCandless): The RSC reports that they have had three callouts this quarter (NWPAK9SAR, SMRG, MARG). They also have their virtual SAREX taking place March 3rd and 4th. Additionally, the same officers have been elected for this year.

**V. New Business**

**a. Communication Report**

C. Werntz notes he would like to place an order for the radio equipment for the ASRC teams via the grant that we received. He has not heard back from five of the seven teams. He needs these orders by the end of January. The DMR Phonebook for the conference has been completed.

## **b. Event Planning**

50th Anniversary (L.Gatti & M. Hansen)

- Looking for one person from each group to be on the planning committee.
- By May aiming for a date and location
- Deciding upon professional conference v. retreat heavy
- Looking into speakers outside of the organization
- Retrospective of the ASRC
- Assemble alumni for donations

2022 -2023 Dates

- 13 April 2023 -BOD meeting, virtual @ 1900
- 11 - 12 August 2023 - Annual General Meeting weekend - Camp Mountaineer, WV
- 13 August 2023 - Annual General Meeting and BOD meeting - Camp Mountaineer, WV
- 26 October 2023 -BOD meeting, virtual @ 1900
- 12-14 January 2024 -AGM @ Bears Den
- 14 January 2024 -BOD meeting in person @ Bears Den

## **VI. Good of the Order**

G. Harrison reminds members to maintain their relationships.

## **VII. Adjourn**

Meeting adjourned at 1205 hrs.

Respectively submitted,

Olivia Wojcicehowski  
ASRC Secretary